

NORTHERN NEWS

UFO

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NORTHERN UFO NEWS

SUBS: £3 FOR THREE
EDITOR: JENNY RANGLES COVER: JOHNNY WAUDBY

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J. R. Comments...

Firstly, an apology once again. This issue of Northern UFO News was delayed in similar fashion to April's and arrives a couple of weeks late. The main factor was the hospitalisation of my mother (who is thankfully now recovering) plus the extraordinary size of the work required to put together 'Controversy of the Circles' with Paul Fuller (see page 4). As a slight compensation, just for this issue, I've added four extra 'free' pages to thank you for your continuing support and understanding.

Recently, Clive Potter of LUFOIC sent me the response he received from Clive Neville, current correspondent at the Ministry of Defence 'UFO Department' (ie Air Staff 2). It is symptomatic of a steadily increasing degree of cooperation from the MoD in recent months and years. Quite a few 'MoD reports' have been sent out to various enquiring investigators, at least one witness has been recommended to call me (allegedly by Clive Neville) and facts and figures about MoD sightings have been willingly offered (see Feb 1989 NUN). What does this all mean?

The Neville-Potter letter (dated 12 April 1989) is typical of many recently sent (the MoD tend to reuse the same phrases again and again from their 'computer data base of standard UFO replies'). After helpfully confirming that "our heavy workload on RAF operational matters" means "we do not have the resources to spend a large amount of time on each UFO enquiry that we receive" the MoD Clive tells his UFOlogist namesake that "unless we judge that a sighting report presents a threat to the security and defence of the UK... we do not attempt to investigate or identify whatever might have been seen." However, it is the rider added to that which caused Clive Potter to take note... "let me assure you that this is not normally the case".

In other words, it isn't always the case that a UFO sighting does not present a threat only *not normally*; which rather begs the question as to what sort of UFO sightings do present such a threat? Did the December 1980 incidents in Rendlesham Forest, for example? According to the MoD in letters and conversations with me (and subsequently with others) they did not.

Of course, presumably there are instances where an object is tracked as a 'UFO' which turns out upon investigation to be a high-flying spy-plane from the Eastern Bloc. These must be considered MoD territory and to have 'defence implications'. However, from all the evidence I have ever seen, and my conversations with ex MoD under-secretary Ralph Noyes confirm this fact, the average UFO sighting (even if it is as puzzling to the MoD as it is to us) does not constitute a defence threat.

Why is this? I think it confirms that, Tim Good or MJ-12 apart, there is no overwhelming evidence at all for intrusions into our air space by alien craft. First-rate evidence for an unexplained atmospheric phenomenon is quite a different matter. I believe the MoD are well aware of that and of its potential repercussions (eg an energy source for weapons development or a rare potential hazard to air traffic) - but it is a moot point as to whether they should term it a 'defence threat'. Do they so term re-entering space junk or even ball lightning? And, of course, from a public relations point of view, if they did speak of UAP or 'unexplained UFOs' and justified their continuing collation of data on the grounds that it might add information indirectly of 'defence implications' that would only backfire. Can't you see the headlines now? - 'Official!': MoD confirms aliens'

In May, I was invited to an RAF base in the Midlands to speak about UFOs. I put together a joint presentation with Peter Hough and we drove there somewhat filled with trepidation.

The request had come from the officers mess and, indeed, it was clear from the start that the ordinary airmen who had requested permission to attend had been denied. We were told by the base commander himself, who introduced proceedings, that it was considered 'inappropriate' for plain airmen and airwomen to attend a lecture in the officers quarters.

This was one of the most daunting audiences that either Peter Hough or myself have ever faced and we offered a comprehensive package on UFOs, IFOs and how real investigation is undertaken. That some of those in the audience had literally flown there just to attend, arriving from other air bases in their own jets, was a humbling experience.

But what emerged from all of this? It was pretty obvious that the spread of interest and knowledge amongst the officers was akin to that within any other group of society. In fact, if anything they seemed more naive than other audiences I have met. I suspect that the flight officer who initiated the invitation was himself heavily committed to a belief in the Extraterrestrial Hypothesis and may have been surprised and disappointed by what we had to say. The base commander, on the other hand, was typically reserved in what he commented, merely saying at the end that 'we have heard tonight how people can be fooled'.

Curiously, at question time there were a few nervous faces, and the intimidating presence of the Wing Commander was presumably a factor in why not many questions at all were asked in public (a lot more were asked in private around the bar afterwards). Indeed if I recall correctly there was one amazingly ill-informed point about the Bermuda Triangle and Peruvian UFOs (straight out of Von Daniken) and the only other subject that provoked major interest was that of the crop circles in southern England.

That this topic seemed to be of so much interest to RAF personnel really does intrigue. Of course, there are many military establishments in the Salisbury Plain area around where most circles manifest. But do we see hints of a deeper level of enquiry? From reading the FSR articles of Colin Andrews and Pat Delgado you get an impression of MoD and RAF interest in the circles and we know that military helicopters have flown 'photo reccies' over sites and at least one report was submitted to the MoD - in 1985 by Lt Col Edgecombe of the REME (see 'Mystery of the Circles, for reproduction).

I had a number of fascinating conversations afterwards (as did Peter). One air traffic controller shared details of a radar target he had picked up over the East Midlands ("within the past year") which involved an unknown target flying in circles. A jet was scrambled to intercept above the Nottingham area but the 'UFO' was invisible, even though the aircraft flew right 'into' it. I started to talk about 'angels' and 'anomalous propagation' effects, but it was evident the experienced controller had reasons not to believe it was either of these. He had introduced the topic with the words, 'of course, you know about the case when...'. Then he realised we did not know about it and seemed to sense his mistake, so changed the subject. I strongly suspect this is akin to many military encounters which occur and which are never made public because they remain unexplained.

Doubtless to some, incidents like this 'prove' there is a cover-up of a great secret (ie contact with aliens). They don't. All they prove is that the military is composed of human beings. Just like UFOlogists, these people are thoroughly fascinated, puzzled and confused about the UFO mystery - but are also wisely cautious as to just how they say so.

NEWS ROUND - UP:

CONTROVERSY OF THE CIRCLES: -

BUFORA Publications will be busy this summer. Aside from UFO LEXICON (about which more next issue), the first National Investigations Committee 'Case History' (the Peter Day Case) and the 1989 edition of 'UFO World' will both make their debut by the time the next NUN is with you.

Meanwhile, those of you fascinated by the 'mystery crop circles', which NUN has regularly commented upon and which featured in BUFORA's best-selling booklet 'Mystery of the Circles' (1986) can now compare the results of the scientific enquiry with the novel 'force-field' theories being expounded by other sources (eg see Andrews and Delgado's 'Circular Evidence'). An entirely new publication entitled CONTROVERSY OF THE CIRCLES is now available from BUFORA, which as with the previous booklet is co-authored by Paul Fuller and myself. This is no mere update or rewrite of that 28 pp booklet and is, in fact, a 112 page book. It offers all the data on a decade of in-depth BUFORA investigation of the controversy.

Copies are available by way of NUN (make cheques and POs to "BUFORA Ltd" please). Price is £4.20 (including UK postage). Overseas rates (unless in UK currency) available upon request... NB attractive discount rates are being offered to any overseas UFO group, or individual, who wishes to purchase 10 or more copies for resale to UFOlogists in their own land. This seems the best way to bring the book to a wider audience without having to charge overseas UFO researchers big sums due to huge money exchange costs.

:: American readers may be interested to know that the BUFORA book - "PHENOMENON" (which was a major success in Britain last year) is now available in the USA from Avon paperbacks uncut and under the same title.

Also uncut, but retitled "ALIEN ABDUCTIONS: The Mystery Solved" (not my idea, I should point out!) is the most recent of my UFO books (UK title ABDUCTION). This is due for softback release in September from Inner Light Books of New Brunswick, New Jersey.

:: Sad to record the recent death of yet another UFO pioneer, Raymond Drake, who died suddenly in April (aged 76) whilst watching his beloved "Sunderland FC" play at Roker Park (which by a strange coincidence actually featured in the April NUN on page 10). Raymond, a charming man, lectured to NUFON at UMIST in Manchester back in 1975 at what remains the best-attended of our conferences. Over 250 were there, including William Roache (Ken Barlow from 'Coronation Street'). Drake wrote several books about 'Gods and Spacemen' and these predated the far more successful (and partly derivative) works from people such as von Daniken.

:: NUN reader Gina Evans (10 St Michaels Rd Sutton Coldfield West Midlands B73 5SY) needs your help... Do you know anything about a UFO witnessed in 1976 or 1977 (possibly between April and September) during a dinner or afternoon break at the Nonsuch School (real name!) in Woodgate Valley, Birmingham? ... Many pupils and teachers reputedly saw it.

:: Finally, sorry to disappoint one lady who saw me on TV lately and had her illusions shattered. She expected someone; "wearing much floating drapery with beads, bangles, huge glasses and tweed underwear." How did she know?

THE VIRGIN AND THE UFO:

Almost every newspaper in Britain reported a UFO close encounter that occurred on the 31 March 1989. Here's what happened. The London Evening Standard were first that night, with the smashing headline from their galactic exclusive interview; "I was alien spaceman of the M 25"

At 5.50 am, the pre morning rush hour on the M 25 in Surrey ground to a standstill as cars nearly piled into one another and startled residents fled onto the street. They were watching a 180 foot wide 'silvery spaceship' drift towards its historic touchdown at Redhill. Horrified police officers from all over the south-east hastened to the area, in time to confront two three feet tall entities in silver suits clamber out on a peace mission. Three officers crept towards the alien emissaries with truncheons raised and one poor CID man bolted as he had too much of a close encounter.

One of the motorists, Keith Vaughan Williams, described how he pulled into the hard shoulder and "saw this wide saucer shaped object in the sky. It had flashing lights and was just like something out of 'Close Encounters'." Meanwhile, highway patrols were busy booking unlucky motorists who dared to stop (illegally) on the motorway to witness this sight.

By the next day the truth was known and most nationals (from The Times to The Daily Star) carried pieces. It involved boss of Virgin Records and notorious daredevil twit, Richard Branson, which naturally generated wonderful prose about 'being in a pickle' and 'virgin on the ridiculous' etc. Of course, if a real UFO had landed most of these media sources would have been more conspicuous by their silence.

Branson explained how he saw all the publicity for UFOs in the weeks preceding (ie press stories of the paperback releases of both "Above Top Secret" and "Abduction"). So he decided to fool Britain. A balloon was specially adapted to resemble a spaceship and two midgets were dressed in alien costumes. Branson himself donned an ET mask and piloted the 'craft'. The idea was to run the hoax on April Fool's Day (a non-working Saturday), but this escapade was a dry-run. Incredibly, Branson claimed; "I assumed there would be no-one around." The M 25 is only the busiest motorway in Britain and one of the most over-used highways in Europe!

Today featured a lovely colour shot of the 'spaceship' but also carried news of the growing anger. Andrew Neilson, Chief Inspector of Surrey police said; "It was lucky a serious accident did not occur... There was fog on the motorway... (Branson's) actions endangered a lot of motorists who should have been looking at the road and not in the sky." However, Branson was unrepentant, still laughing merrily about how "one (police) officer said he had never been as frightened in 20 years."

Predictably, the Star found its own angle, telling how hundreds of witnesses called police and radio stations to report the UFO, but one forgot she was stark naked as she stood entranced by her window!

The latest word is that the police have submitted a report to the Civil Aviation Authority; although early talk of prosecution and removal of Branson's flying licence seem to have quietly disappeared. He did, if you recall, have to be rescued mid-Atlantic from another recent Balloon flop. In the Daily Express (13 April) Branson apologised for any offence caused to frightened witnesses and told how he would be "horrified" by the thought of sharing air space with real UFOs. His joke was simply meant to be funny.

The trouble is the damage this sort of thing does to the ever tarnished image of UFOlogy. And if my book was indirectly responsible for Branson's potty idea, as it seems to have been, then I profusely apologise.

FOR YOUR PERUSAL:

Major articles elsewhere

Some new magazines to record this issue. CONTACT UK have resurfaced with a new version of AWARENESS. Issue 1 (1989-90 !) is A5 and nicely edited by Geoff Ambler. It comes complete with UFO REGISTER, a catalogue and statistical breakdown of CONTACT's 1081 cases for the year 1978. All in all a welcome return and a useful data for the enthusiast. No details of CONTACT membership fees given, but you can obtain information via:-

11 Ouseley Close New Marston Oxford OX3 0JS

COSMOLOGY NEWSLINK is also back. It crams a lot into its 22 pp of A4, mostly reprints of press stories on the supernatural (including some UFOs). Again I can't find any reference to price, but info available via:-
16 Newton Green Great Dunmow Essex CM6 1DU

An impressive looking newcomer from Belgium (fully in English) is SVL Newsletter. It promises to "be dedicated to the scientific study of UFO reports" and is mostly looking for contributors. If it lives up to promise it should be good. Details:- Kronenburgstraat 110 B-2000 Antwerpen Belgium

Finally, from the USA comes CAVEAT EMPTOR which has emerged after a 14 year gap. Its A 4 and packed with articles. In the first three issues there has been plenty of sensible stuff on the matters at the heart of US UFOlogy and a key feature is its in-depth interviews (with people like Brad Steiger and Timothy Green Beckley). Looks well worth your support this at \$16 US for four from:- Box 4533 Metuchen New Jersey NJ 08840-4533 USA

We should also welcome the new BUFORA publication, launched in May to replace both Bulletin and JTAP. Titled UFO TIMES its an A4 glossy with 28 pp and I must say that editor Mike Wootten has done a particularly fine job of repackaging. Scheduled bi-monthly I am pleased to say that at last BUFORA has a magazine it can be proud of. There's a review of Swedish UFOlogy, a piece by new BUFORA president Major Sir Patrick Wall, case statistics in pictorial form, Bill Dillon on the new physics... etc... Keep it up, Mike.

SPI ENIGMAS May/Jun (£6, for five, 4 Woodlea Pk Sauchie Alloa FK10 3BG)
Scotland's own is also repackaged in a neat EMTAY A5 format. Nessie, haunted discos and UFOs... if you are into Scottish mysteries, this one is for you.

CUFOSC Feb/Mar (Price??, for six, 117 Earle St Crewe Cheshire CW1 2AG)
This takes me back (1974-1982) to the days when NUN was run off on my duplicator and to bring you the news meant wrestling with stencils and getting more ink on me than the page. Despite the print quality there is lots of sound UFOlogical comment in here and I should imagine its cheap.

NUFOIS NEWS 13 (£1.25 each from 46 The Common Quarndon Derbys DE6 4JY)
I also recall when NUFOIS were a sensible critical investigation team who published the ever interesting UFO Research Review. Now we have a magazine that says of "Light Years" in a review: "The believable aspect of the story is the subjects inability or willingness to hugely profit..." Enough said?

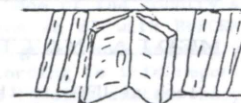
THE LEY HUNTER 107 (£6, for four, Box 5 Brecon Powys LD3 7AA)
Whilst we await Paul Devereux and his FOUR (!) new books on leys, earthlights etc (due in the next 18 months) digest the best earth mysteries publication by a mile. You really can't stay up to date on modern UAP without it.



MUFON Journal (\$30, for 12, 103 Oldtowne Rd Seguin Texas 78155-4099 USA)
As always packed with good stuff... including (March), Budd Hopkins answers his critics... (April) A Gulf Breeze 'special' as Bruce Maccabee justifies at length his faith in the infamous Mr Ed photographs.

IUR Mar/Apr 1989 (\$35, for 6, 2457 W Peterson Ave, Chicago, IL 60659 USA)
The cover says 'UFO Wars' and the debate rages between Edoardo Russo, Gian Grassino, Jerry Clark and Mark Rodeghier about the differences between US and European UFOlogy. Who is right? Paul Devereux has already submitted his very detailed reply. More missives are bound to follow...

STRANGE No 3 (PO Box 2246 Rockville MD 20852 USA)
64 pages of closely typed A4 crammed with great items in this American version of Fortean Times (although usually with more UFO content than in FT). With writers like Mark Chorvinsky, John Keel, Bernard Heuvelmans and Loren Coleman its unmissable. There's a special offer right now for British readers... Just send a cheque or money order for £11.50 to the above address made out to 'Mark Chorvinsky' and you'll get 4 issues... DO NOT HESITATE!

BOOKS OF THE MOMENT:

A quick mention for RATTLER'S TALE MAGAZINE - which is a very old fashioned concept of short mystery or science-fiction stories alongside factual pieces about supposedly true mysteries. Aimed mostly at new writers, it could develop into an interesting mouthpiece on controversial topics. If you fancy a look, then subscription is £10 for six 24 pp A 5 issues (from Anthony North Enterprises BCM Keyhole London WC1N 3XX)

JOURNAL OF UFO STUDIES - 1 1989 Edited by Michael Swords 176 pp
\$18 US from 2457 W Peterson Ave Chicago IL 60659 USA

The J Allen Hynek Center for UFO Studies launches what it hopes to be an (annual?) book-length forum on modern UFOlogy. And its cracking stuff as you might expect given its source. If you can't afford US magazines (notably the 'parent' journal 'International UFO Reporter') this is a good one-off special to start with, as its fresh and has new material specially written.

Whilst there are lengthy articles on a soil sample analysis and science and the ETH, the main theme of this issue (not surprisingly) is the abduction phenomenon. The 'Journal' aims to be intensely scientific and this has produced some unexpected contributors. You won't find the UFOlogists most associated with abductions in this "Issue Forum" at all (ie no Hopkins, Rogo, Strieber, Lawson et al). The only anticipated name is Thomas (Eddie) Bullard, the folklorist, who chips in with a lengthy and important review of the relationship between hypnosis and abductions.

Psychologist, Robert Baker starts the debate by denouncing the reality of abductions (a shock from an American publication!) Many of the invited contributors to the debate seem to follow suit. The only name you may well know is Hilary Evans. Others include Stuart Appelle, DC Donderi, Jean Mundy and an interesting concept from Peter Rojcewicz with overtones of my conclusions in 'Abduction'; although with significant differences too.

Early days but this first issue of the 'Journal' promises well for the future. Such a positive idea for the UFO movement deserves your backing.

PROJECT BECASSINE: HELP REQUIRED:

Denys Breyse of PROJECT BECASSINE has just sent me a very detailed report on the statistical analysis of 2003 worldwide cases of CE 3 and CE 4 offering the most extraordinary set of data on these phenomena yet available.

The report is much too detailed for inclusion here, but will be summarised as part of BUFORA's UFO WORLD '89 very shortly.

There is no doubt that this is a project well worth supporting and if there is any reader wishing to assist in a major research project without leaving their home, here is the perfect opportunity. BECASSINE needs more input from UK cases of this type (ie alien encounters). You probably have access to the data required, via case files, magazine articles etc. Perhaps you can bring the two together and become a contributor to the project.

If you are interested write for details to Denys Breyse at :-
Project BECASSINE 9 Av. St. Exupery 92160 Antony France

MEDIA MATTERS: -

A look at UFOs in the public eye

I hope nobody saw one of my recent TV appearances (on TV-AMs 'Wide Awake'!) They chose to add 'graphics' effects (notably a silly ghost wandering around screen and weird sounds, which luckily I was unaware of whilst coping with the interview. When the second of the two bimbo presenters leapt out behind me wearing a white sheet and pretended to be a phantom - she very nearly ended up as one - care of my extreme annoyance.

Much better was the UFO piece which I put together for ITVs Children's programme 'Ghost Train' (12 June). This took several weeks planning, script consultation and eventual filming in Carlisle for a 10 minute spot that demystified the subject a little. I want to thank all those NUFON associates who cooperated in this venture (notably Rodney Howarth, Clive Potter and Ernie Still) - and, of course, Terri Oakensen for being brave enough to come on air and tell other children about her experience (see 'brief cases').

The difference between these two events shows how a feature which does plan and consult with researchers in advance wins hands down over fiascos thrown together in ten minutes by know-it-all producers who don't wish to educate, merely to entertain and reinforce the stereotype myths.

UFO researchers have been featuring a lot in the press of late. Some interesting variations have appeared during these sessions.

Tim Good has, of course, figured heavily after paperback release of 'Above Top Secret' (although publicity was rather muted and I get the feeling the UFO bubble has burst in Britain - if it was ever inflated much in the first place). Under the heading 'It came from outer space' the *Beckenham and Penge Advertiser* (17 Mar) carried the most detailed item. Tim talks at length about his own UFO sightings and motives for writing the book; "to alert the media to the fact that something of unprecedented significance was happening... Not all extra-terrestrials may have our best interests at heart. They may be creating a hybrid..."

Over in Yorkshire, George Wild of YUFOS was touting the "world's first international UFO conference to be held in Ossett town hall" in September! (see *Wakefield Express* 31 Mar)



Of course, in no way is it the world's first conference (what about the FIVE organised by BUFORA so far - let alone the many splendid MUFON ventures?) But it may be the first in Ossett (wherever that is). Mr Wild is a "a member of the board of directors that makes up Quest Publications International Limited". He adds that "UFO sightings are reported every 17 seconds all over the world" and tells how YUFOS are now offering a "counselling service" for witnesses... no comment!

Another YUFOS member in the news, promoting their other highly 'original' idea of a 'UFO hotline', is ex police officer Tony Dodd. He's been everywhere of late; including 'UFO hunt chief's close encounter' (*Bradford Telegraph and Argus*, 8 Apr). This tells of his promotion to "a top post in the UFOlogy sphere", namely with "the country's biggest sky-watching organisation, Quest International" (ie YUFOS)... He explains his support for the quaint concept of skywatching by saying; "I know UFOs are operating in our air space and I want to help prove it."

Another of "Britain's leading experts on the unknown" is Gary Rowe, according to the *Wrexham Leader* (Apr) anyhow. Having said that he does speak sense about IFOs and logical explanations but concludes that ETs are real and "evidence of wrecked alien-craft does exist".

East Anglia has not escaped either. A double-page spread in the *East Anglian Daily Times* (25 Apr) features, you guessed it, "one of the country's leading UFO investigators". This is Ron West, who became an AI with BUFORA last year (and within a few weeks formed his own group and seemingly hasn't been involved with BUFORA since - although according to this report he became an AI in 1986 and is still with "BUFORA, the leading amateur body of UFO investigation in the UK"). The report comments; "Ron is in no doubt that aliens (or space people as he prefers to call them) do exist..."

Of course, I have had my share of disgusting treatment. The *Stockport Express* (30 Mar) carried a photo of me and comment on 'Abduction' without even speaking to me. The headline was "Spacenapped? - Not a chance" and it quoted ASTONISHINGLY out of context a line from the book's first page where I explain why most people dispute the existence of CE 4 cases. The book then has 200 pages of reasons why that conclusion is false and any reviewer who got past page 1 knows I do NOT conclude of witnesses that "these sad folk who dwell under this delusion are feeble minded, unbalanced or more than likely both". As it names two Stockport witnesses in association with that crass remark; I told the paper they had labelled those honest folk and demanded they print a retraction. The paper promised to "look into the matter" and, guess what, clammed up and have refused to do so.

The contrast in British media stories about UFOs is apparent from three that occurred on 30 Apr/1 May. Firstly, Philip Mantle was much quoted in a news piece in *The Independent* headed, 'Flying Saucers disappear in Whitehall 'black hole'. This discusses recent documentation procured by Philip on 1950's British government interest in UFOs. Fascinating stuff it is too. Not 'crashed UFO and pickled green men' fare, Philip was using this to DEFUSE the cover-up. It was a great article that did the subject credit.

The day before I had been behind a piece in no less a place than the *Sunday Times*. 'Unearthly row brewing' spoke of the differences in approach between UK and US research into abductions, the regional variations in evidence and the way in which abductions may be a different phenomenon from data being accumulated on "atmospherical phenomena related to geophysics".

These real boosts for serious UFOlogy were then dented by the trusty *Sunday Sport* who told us that the aliens have really been contacting dolphins, not us - so say a few dolphins during recent interviews!

A VIEW ON THE SKY: By Gary Anthony

During May and June venus remains the most spectacular object in the evening sky. At -3.9 it is very bright in the west after sunset, setting before midnight by the end of June. Jupiter is also bright at -2.0, until the end of May, by which time it sets just minutes after the sun. It will not be very visible at all and in June will be invisible in conjunction with the sun. Mars is less bright at +1.7 and sets around midnight at the start of May becoming closer to the sun and setting just after it (around 22.00 hrs) in late June. Growing brighter (approaching 0 magnitude) is Saturn which rises in the south east at Midnight in early May and by late June rises at sunset and stays above the south east horizon all night as a bright 'star'. There are meteor showers focusing on 5 May and 20 June with peak rates of 20 per hour, but neither are especially prominent.

BRIEF CASES: -

Some current investigations

A few odds and ends:

Chance this issue to tie together a few loose ends; stories that never quite made it to an investigation for one reason or another.

First, an anecdote reported by a couple of readers from Gwent. They read 'Abduction' and on a recent visit to Scotland picked up the following by way of an acquaintance, 'Jack'. The story was told with 'great sincerity'. Jack is now 80 and this occurred when he was a young man (ie up to 60 years ago). He lived on the north coast of Scotland in a place and time where all the lightning came from gas lamps. A close friend had just died and soon after Jack woke up to see a glow by the door. At first he thought the lamps had gone wrong. All the room was full of light. Then, suddenly, the room vanished and he was standing in another place. 'I thought I was dead,' Jack said. His dead friend was there, standing between two men in white suits. They wore helmets with visors and had just slits where the eyes should be. Jack's friend looked distressed and said; 'I am not gone'. The feeling during the experience was very odd - time stretched out. The two strangers took Jack's friend away and suddenly everything was back to normal.

Now a note from reader Ray Broderick about case 8827, last issue. He criticises MUFORA for dismissing the Woodplumpton, Lancs, case as an aircraft. The group "must have a waste bin of good sightings" he adds. His reason is a personal encounter on the same day, 4 November 1988. Mr B was "waiting for a furnishing van to move to our new abode, which did not turn up until 6 pm... I was looking through my window when at 5.25 pm (almost exactly the same time as the Woodplumpton case) I witnessed an object crossing the sky on a SE path". This sighting at Clayton-le-Moors, Lancs, was "definitely not a plane". It was "twice the size of a 50 p piece, the centre colour was light creamy and the outer colour electric blue. It had a very long tail of light, this was also creamy. Its speed was average."

MUFORA doesn't often get ghost photos sent to it. But a Mr T of Edgeley, Stockport, claimed to have filmed one in the Windsor Sports pub. This used to be called the Windsor Castle in a hilly area of town where a castle once stood. Date was 8 May 1988 at 2 pm during a birthday party. One uncle had just said that another uncle (recently deceased) was 'at the party' when the photos were taken. Nothing was seen until development - when frames 16 and 19 in the 24 depict a long silver 'hand' that intrudes into shot. The camera was a Halina 110 autodrive and brand new, with Colorcare film. Mr T took it to the Stockport Express who allegedly said it was strange but did not publish it and sent him to MUFORA. Our evaluation confirmed what the paper thought (hence their decision not to print what is an interesting looking 'ghost' photo). The streamer was the result of nitrogen filtering during processing which creates a streaky film on two negatives. Whilst not sequential in the numbering they were overlapping when wound round the drum during processing; hence the way both were effected but none inbetween.



Edith wrote recently after reading one of my books. She was (sometime between 1977 and 1979) a secretary with a security company. She can recall few details save that on arrival at work one Monday morning the office was in uproar. A full time and one part time worker had been on a building site near Warrington, Cheshire, and had just phoned in to confirm the site was fine. It was early am. As they sat at the table the hut "filled with light". One man said - "it was a white light so bright, but the funny thing was I could look directly at it without blinking." These hardened security men were so scared they hid under the table! Allegedly a 'craft' landed in the yard and they hid from it for 20 minutes, but oddly they missed their next phone-in check ONE HOUR later. A nearby guard was sent out from another site to check on them. The men were found "sober but still under the table". A director had to go and collect them and take them home. He reputedly saw something like 'dry ice' on the grass and patches indicating a possible object had landed. One director wanted to call the local paper saying "our security is out of this world". The witnesses refused to be involved. Later a local man told the new officer on site "Ee lad, don't worry. We are always seeing funny things round 'ere. I reckon its that secret government thingie". Of interest here is a possible link with Risley and the Ken Edwards CE 4 (right in the middle of the wide dates offered). The location of the site isn't known, but the 'secret thingie' seems to suggest a link with the notorious American base at Burtonwood - high on any North West mystery list.

Finally, James from Liverpool tells me how 8 years ago he went through something "so utterly incredible I have hardly dared tell anyone". He lived next door to a "mad inventor" who secretly broke in when James was out, planted electronic bugging devices and smashed up his furniture. Proof came when he heard this "madman" telling friends next door all about James' thoughts. The police demanded proof of this 'mind reading bug'. James is keeping quiet on that. The madman has followed James to his new abode and is still planting bugs, breaking in and slashing his armchair. As the police will not investigate, he has turned to MUFORA in an effort to catch this 'mind reading alien' in the act. MUFORA decided not to proceed with this particular investigation. As we told him, 'We can't do this: who do you think we are - mind readers?'

A FASCINATING BALL OF LIGHT

Case 77-347 MUFORA 4 February 1977 Walsall, W. Midlands

C6-6

This case came via Jodrell Bank. Mr R had been out to a dinner dance at the town hall (he is tee-total). Returning with friends for coffee it was a long night. At 02.50 they had gone home and he went to check on his horses in his country home before popping off to bed. In the north an orange light appeared. His first thought was that it was a plane heading south towards Elmdon (Birmingham Airport). However, it was not high and totally silent. As it approached very slowly he called out his wife. She dismissed it immediately as 'only an aircraft', but as it drifted away he realised it was just as bright heading in that direction as it had been approaching. This was unusual for an aircraft, as was its remarkably slow speed. He estimates it took nearly 10 minutes to fly from the north to south horizons (about 9 miles). As it passed directly overhead a very faint hum was audible. At no time were his horses disturbed or was any shape detectable. At last sighting it veered away to the east. He has 'lived with this' for years before deciding to report the matter after recent media publicity.

A simple LITS, but it takes on a major new dimension when compared with the NUFON files. For there is a totally independent (little reported) case investigated at the time by Derek James of UFORA. It was published in NUN 35 and is case 7721.

An AA engineer was driving along the A500 near Basford, Staffs (around 20 miles north of Walsall) at 02.25. A colleague was travelling 50 yards behind and the two men were communicating by radio (frequency 72.8 mhz). Suddenly their conversation was drowned by static; a background hiss of white noise and a high pitched single note. Both men heard it and had to turn the volume down, so painful was the effect. Looking towards the Shelton Steel Plant one man (not the other) spotted an orange ball of light flying parallel with the road and heading west towards the M6 motorway. It hovered for a few seconds at one point (during which time the static increased). By the time the ball had gone out of sight the static had faded. Investigation revealed that Stafford Police HQ had experienced very unusual, heavy static (that remained unexplained) on their sets between 02.15 and 02.25.

These two events seem to be related and clearly suggest a very interesting UAP in the area. Readers may recall that during February and March 1977 Britain was swamped by UFO events (especially in South Wales and the Pennines).

Case 79-180 WAPIT February 1979 Rainhill, Merseyside J. Cotton A3-5

Hard to evaluate this odd case, which WAPIT suggest may link with that other famous report of an 'orange ball of light' with static effects (24 February 1979 - see 'The Pennine UFO Mystery'). However, no date is known here and the time was 14.00 (daylight) as opposed to 02.45 (a further remarkable connection with the above case from Staffordshire).

Witness Mr L from St Helens was walking his dog in Dukes Clough Lane (a country path near the M62). At the deepest part of a dip in the path he became aware of "a pulsating feeling in the air". This became so strong that he was "physically unable to put one foot in front of the other". His dog stopped 100 yards behind him and also refused to budge. With the force at "unbelievable ferocity" he turned around and went home. The force felt "evil" and he was certain he had "come across something from another world". He has been on the path since and suffered no effects.

Case 8182 MUFORA 6 September 1981 Stretford, G. Man Harry Hudson C2-4

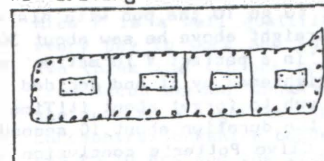
A 'freelance writer' was returning from work at 18.30 when he saw a cigar shape in the sky moving north west. It was grey and had a 'glow' round it. After just a few seconds it vanished into cloud. The investigator saw no reason not to conclude this was an aircraft.

A BUSMANS HOLIDAY

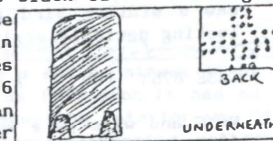
Case 8430 MUFORA 18 November 1984 Bangor, Gwynedd Peter Hough B6-6

This case was first reported to us by a friend of the witness who described him as "a down to earth man who would not seek publicity but who feels rather burdened by the memory of this incident". We succeeded in getting a report from the witness and Peter Hough then interviewed him.

Witness describes date as Sunday 16th (but as it was a Sunday for certain it must have been the 18th). It was 09.00, clear, frosty but sunny. He was driving a double-decker bus, having just dropped off some workmen on the



island of Anglesey. Having crossed the fine Menai Suspension Bridge onto the A5, heading north-east into Bangor. At first he saw the object directly over the bridge at about 1500 feet, then moments later it reappeared right beside him. He was now driving alongside it at a distance of no more than 15 feet. It was long and cigar shaped with masses of rivets on it and square windows. It was very silvery but looked old and rather rusty. As it lifted up and flew over the bus he could see that the underside was like black carbon and highly polished. Two grooves seemed to be cut into the base and a square of rivets on the back were visible in passing. From the known size of his bus he estimates that the UFO was 30 feet long, 20 feet high and 16 feet wide. Peter Hough found him a responsible man and notes that an indication of Oz factor and other close encounter effects emerged... i.e. when the UFO flew beside him all sounds (including the noisy bus engine) seemed muted. The witness said of his close-up view: "It was like a rusty old railway carriage. It seemed to be made of steel sheets, but was so rusty I felt sorry for it."



MUFORA cannot account for this, save to note that at first glance the witness thought it might be a box-kite. Could this have been the stimulus for an altered state of consciousness, Peter Hough asks?

THE PHANTOM COPTER RIDES AGAIN

Case 8549 MUFORA 17 March 1985 Sutton-in-Ashfield, Notts

C2-2

Amanda, aged 14 at the time, was watching 'That's Life' on TV at 21.30 hrs when a "loud rotor blade" noise appeared over the house. Convinced it was a low-flying helicopter, she ran outside for a look. Upon doing so she was astonished, because there was a heavy snowstorm. What would be flying in this?

Being unable to see anything she ran to her mother who was next door with a neighbour. The two women came out as the noise faded away into the distance. "Maybe it was just a helicopter that got lost in the snow", Amanda notes. But the local paper were very intrigued.

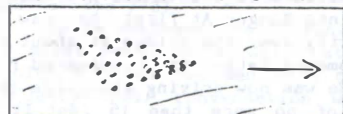
Under the heading 'Mystery 'copter 'buzzed' homes' it reported how "a phantom helicopter buzzed homes in Sutton...But nobody knows who was piloting the machine or what its purpose was." Apparently some residents "could see the machine's lights...Some estimates put its height at little more than 500 feet. Several times the pilot switched on a powerful searchlight as if looking for a landmark - or place to land."

The police blamed the Electricity Board (surveying powerlines for snow damage?) but East Midlands Electricity said that they wouldn't be foolish enough to fly in such bad weather. The only locally based 'copter was firmly locked up that night, its owners insisted.

Perhaps this was just a simple helicopter incident, but why could nobody trace the brave (or foolish) pilot? It also has many comparisons with the cases of the 'mystery helicopter' that plagued the Pennines in the seventies...which is to feature in some depth in the book "Phantoms of the Skies" (Robert Hale) coming soon from Andy Roberts and Dave Clarke.

CASE 8550 LUFOIC 9 November 1985 Loughborough, Leics C. Potter C1-3

Witness Mr F (a service engineer) was about to go to the pub with his wife when he checked the weather in the garden. Straight above he saw about 30 -



50 red lights 'in a perfect V formation' pass over. He was frightened by it and decided to go out to the pub to forget about it! Time was 20.30 hrs and the duration about 10 seconds. I

fully support Clive Potter's conclusion that Mr F saw a formation of birds (geese) with their reflective underbellies 'glowing' with light reflected from the town below. There are supporting natural history reasons. Indeed just a few weeks later (in December 1985) I saw a similar bird flock myself reflecting the lights of Warrington and looking decidedly eerie, unless you knew what it was.

CASE 8751 IUN Autumn 1987 Silsden, West Yorks Philip Mantle C2-2

Mr S and wife were walking down a lane beside Ilkley Moor at approximately 22.00 hrs when they saw a bright white light in the west travelling north to south. It passed level with the horizon and was in view only a matter of seconds. There is virtually no doubt that this was a bright meteor.

CASE 8752 BUFORA November 1987 Warwick, Warwickshire C3-3

Miss W suffers from asthma and decided, in the early hours, to go onto her balcony for fresh air to help her sleep. It was overcast and this disappointed her, but she stayed there watching the sky. After about 15 minutes several white lights appeared from the SE heading NW. There were seven of these in a V formation. They moved slowly and silently overhead and out of sight.

If you have read the above case you will have doubtless figured out that this was again probably a flock of reflective birds. However, Miss W became very interested in UFOs (reading books by Donald Keyhoe, Eric von Daniken and Arthur Shuttlewood). These convinced her she had seen alien spacecraft over Warwick and that this was "fairly common" and so she felt much happier about it.

Two months later she was to almost have her second close encounter.

Returning from town with her two young sons (about 18.00) when she stopped to change from shoes into boots. Suddenly one son said "I've just seen a hot air balloon" and pointed to the sky, but then said "it's gone". Later he drew it as a fish shape covered in lights.

This was the last straw and she got together with a group of friends to form a UFO discussion group and hold skywatching parties. Surprise, surprise "we have seen a lot of strange things"; mostly "lights the size and brightness of stars". Then on one "amazing" night (in May 1988) they saw two 'streaks of light' that shot across the sky to the horizon (ie meteors) and a "big white star" that sat low in the sky changing colour most of the night. This, of course, was just a bright star or planet.

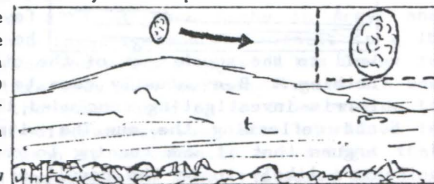
This case is a lesson in how developing a belief in UFOs can greatly reduce your IFO threshold as you look at the many fascinating things in the sky for the very first time.

ANOTHER PENNINE EARTHLIGHT?

Case 8832 MUFORA 4 February 1988 Bacup, Lancashire J. Randles B6-6

Miss F is a well qualified young woman who drives from Bury to Todmorden every day to work and to see her boyfriend there. On this particular night (we think the 4th, but possibly the 11th) she was travelling on the A 681 from Bacup across Todmorden Moor over Sharneyford top (OS ref 888246) when

she spotted a light at the precise Lancashire/Yorkshire border. The time was 20.10 hrs and the light was in the SSE above an outcrop that is 430 metres in height. Rounding the corner and crossing the border there is a small lay-by where she stopped. Tooter Hill was silhouetted beneath the glow



of the thing which was an intense orange ("like a sodium street light but brighter"). It was about one-third the size of the full moon. It had an egg shape (as seen on end) but was most curious because the interior was "like a swirling liquid (or fire embers) with constantly changing patterns. I don't think this was an illusion because I've looked at distant lights since but I haven't been able to get the same effect." The 'egg' remained static (apart from the swirls) for 2-3 minutes. As she drove away it started to move, so she pulled in again and watched it (now dimmer) move away to the south west towards south Bacup or Britannia (location of the quarries that have featured in so many of the Rossendale encounters). As it descended below the level of the hillside its speed increased. Miss F was a very careful observer (marking the motion of this object with fence marker posts on the moorside road). This seems to be a classic example of the UFOs which repeatedly manifest in this one small area - typical earthlights territory.

CASE 8834 NUFORC 24 October 1984, Weedon, Northants Ernie Still B4-4

This is the sighting by ten year old Terri Oakensen (grand-daughter of the abductee Elsie) as featured on the ITV show 'Ghost Train'. Around 18.00 hrs she spotted an "eye-shaped" object surrounded by coloured lights (red, blue, green, yellow) with a blue light flashing on top. The object went dark, moved off and then glowed all white. It was silent. There have been suggestions it was a helicopter but Terri says of this; "If it was I would have heard it." Other local sightings occurred at the same time in Corby.

CASE 8830 MUFORA 2 December 1988 Broadbottom, G. Man

B3-3

This case was reported via Jodrell Bank. Mr C was on the road from Charlesworth to Glossop at 20.50 hrs when he saw ten lights in a long line like cabin lights on an aircraft. Many low flying planes heading across the Pennines into Ringway (Manchester Airport) are seen from this area, but this 'cigar' was stationary. People in other cars slowed, as if seeing it, but did not stop. It then moved off after just a few seconds towards Hadfield. He phoned Ringway who said that they were testing a new radar and military aircraft were engaged in low level flights to gauge its capabilities. But he made an official report to the Civil Aviation Authority and then to the MoD at West Drayton. Finally Air Staff 2 gave him BUFORAs phone number and MUFORAs address saying of the latter; "They are very reputable people. We do class them as that. They look into this sort of thing much more closely than we can." Thanks to Clive Neville things certainly are looking up.

CASE 8902 CUFOSC 21 January 1989 Trent Vale, Staffs E. Morris C4-4

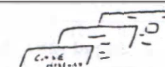
Mr B, a driving instructor, was having breakfast at 08.45 hrs when through the south facing window he saw a stationary object in the sky. He went up to get his binoculars and opened the bedroom window to watch it. He saw a perfect 'V' that was shining like a plane in the sun. After a few minutes cloud covered up the object and he called the Stoke police. As the object was well to the south east of the city they passed it on to Uttoxeter who did nothing. Mr B eventually came to BUFORA via the Newchapel Observatory. Eric Morris investigating concluded that this was an aircraft high in the sky and reflecting the sun. The witness insists it was stationary and Eric argues that it was turning to create this effect. I suspect the V shape is more likely to be the result of an aircraft vapour trail that might have been unusually stable and of slightly odd configuration. Eric established that there were indeed many jet aircraft in this airspace at the time.

CASE 8901 MUFORA 13 February 1989 Swadlincote, Derbyshire

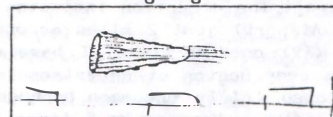
C2-2

At 18.20 hrs Mr HB, an unemployed man from Burton on Trent, observed a ball of light in the sky. He describes it as "pulsating with many coloured lights around its surface...red, blue, green and orange". The light "kept vanishing and then coming back" as it moved across from west to east. After about four or five minutes it "just disappeared completely from view as if by magic." MUFORA were not persuaded that this sighting offered much in the way of hard evidence and suggested an aircraft as a possible answer. The witness hotly disputed this and insisted on seeing an investigator immediately. We recommended he contact Clive Potter in Leicester, but he insisted we get Clive round to see him PRONTO. After a week Mr HB wrote to advise that unless Clive arrived "within the week" he would "withdraw all cooperation". Don't hold your breath for more detail on this one.

DON'T FORGET TO KEEP BANG UP TO DATE ON ALL THE LATEST NEWS YOU CAN PHONE
THE BUFORA UFO CALL ON 0898- 12 18 86 ANYTIME, DAY OR NIGHT

CASE HISTORIES:A SPRINKLE OF SCOTTISH HEATHER (Part 2) SPI Report by Malcolm Robinson

Case 8750 involves a 52 year old man who was preparing to go to bed at 00.45 hrs on 25 July 1987 at his home in Armadale, West Lothian. Hearing a sound of arguing from the street he went to the window and in the S S E



observed a greenish/white series of lights. He was able to study this through binoculars as it 'bounced about' the sky and he could tell that it comprised an object shaped like a 'shuttlecock'. It then shot off. Forsaking his

sleep he decided to take a walk with his dogs (he trains greyhounds). The object appeared again as a series of lights (R1 form suggests in a circle?) and he watched it for several minutes. The investigator has tried to investigate this case but made no progress via police (who had no other reports) or airports (who merely noted that the area is outside their normal sphere of influence). A newspaper appeal brought one other LITS, but it did not tie in with the date. The case is considered unidentified.

On 14 November 1987 comes case 8753 at Glen Lochy in Argyll and Bute. Stewart Campbell assisted in this investigation. The witness is a 15 year old (mentally handicapped) youngster who was staying with his father in this remote region at a weekend cottage they own. Testimony varies (in one version the boy was sat indoors, in the other he came in from outside to report what he had seen - and that discrepancy was never clarified in various interviews). However, what was seen is essentially a red light that was at first stationary in the south and flashing. Then it stopped flashing and after a minute or so rose swiftly into a cloudy sky and vanished towards the west. As this is a very rocky area (near Fort William) it is considered probable by the investigators that the witness saw a helicopter on some cross flight or possibly a mountain rescue exercise. They have closed the enquiry as unlikely to be more productive.

THE NIGHT OF MAY 16:

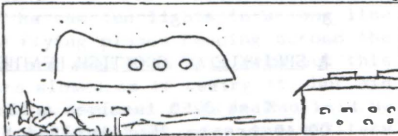
Case file 8807 Contributors LUFOIC & MUFORA

16 May 1988 A 3-7

We have already carried news about the series of UFO sightings in the midlands on 16 May 1988; most notable for their involvement of the Stafford MP, Bill Cash. But now there are some new details to add and Clive Potter has completed his case file on the main events.

Firstly, a possibly relevant secondary case. The incident was first reported to MUFON in the USA by the witness, Mr B, of Hooton, South Wirral. Walt Andrus forwarded this to Philip Mantle (their UK representative) who asked MUFORA to investigate. Peter Hough did so and provides the following data on what turned out to be another series of independently witnessed incidents on that same fateful day, 16 May 1988, timed in late afternoon (around 16.00 hrs).

Mr B (aged 25) had just finished work when he saw a silver object rising through a field in the west. It continued to climb and then crossed the road in an easterly direction. It was a silvery aircraft shape but had no wings and was in a very slow motion pattern making no apparent noise. It seemed to hover above a warehouse and then disappeared after just 30 seconds behind trees. From the sketch it seems probable this was an aircraft. The direction indicated is a DIRECT flight path into Speke (Liverpool Airport) just 2 miles across the Mersey estuary from Hooton. Having lived (JR) on the Wirral I have often seen aircraft in this area and they cross over Hooton at an extremely low height (around 500-750 feet). They are also fairly uncommon, because the more normal flightpath follows the Mersey estuary. However, Mr B lives there so surely is familiar with air traffic and insisted to Peter Hough; "in my opinion (it was) not an aircraft or airship, because I viewed the object at literally only a few feet away from me and because it had no wings and made no noise whatsoever. The object was completely silver and had no markings, except for the three portholes and had no visible signs of propelling..."



Now things start to get interesting, because the *Wirral Globe* carried some reports several months later based on a letter from a reader that prompted others to write in. These came from various parts of the Peninsular, but mostly north of Hooton (around Wallasey, New Brighton and Moreton). They refer to a 'silent aircraft' a 'strange helicopter' and an object without wings or propellers, silver in colour (one witness said it was an 'Army' vehicle and 'looked khaki') and totally silent. Another said it hovered. Some of these reports referred to sightings as late as November 1988; although others seemed to tie in with the Hooton encounter. Peter Hough wrote to the witnesses named (four) and received replies from two. Ms R (a pensioner from Moreton) saw it in May (presumably the same date as above) and describes it as "a plane coming over, quite low. I was shocked to hear no engine sound from the size of plane and its height. When listening carefully I detected the engine noise, hardly audible. It WAS a plane, without doubt... I am sure it was going to land (at Speke) - if it was going to make it! The colour was metal grey with a blue stripe down the side." The second response came from Miss M in Wallasey who merely noted why she wouldn't fill out an R1; "I have come to the conclusion that it was an aeroplane that I saw."

Peter Hough was forced to conclude that this WAS just an unusual aircraft. It was a fine, clear day and so do we have a combination of an oddly muted plane with peculiar (clear) atmospheric conditions? Certainly, it is fascinating that this encounter over such a built up area, bringing speculation about markedly quiet (possibly military) air transport should occur on the same day as the events in Staffordshire.

These were first discussed in NUN 131, 133 & 134, but to elaborate based on Clive Potter's detailed analysis, here is the gist of things. Sightings congregate around 21.30 to 22.30 hrs (ie five and a half hours after the Mersey Estuary incidents). They began at Fernwood, Stafford when five friends in a garden saw "two spotlights" head towards them and resolve into two triangular shapes side by side covered in a mass of lights (red and green mainly). As in the Wirral local publicity brought more cases.

The witnesses (in places like Uttoxeter, Penkridge and Wolverhampton) mostly focused on how many lights there were, their incredibly slow speed and silent flight. The press called Jenny Randles for comments and initial impressions were that a military exercise involving Stealth might be responsible. MP Bill Cash collated details and informed the media he would press the MoD for an answer. They eventually alleged it was just normal air traffic going to Birmingham Airport on an unusually busy night. Neither he nor the witnesses accepted that farcical solution.

Clive Neville at the MoD helpfully provided LUFOIC with copies of the 16 May reports made to them. These were effectively as follows: - 21.30 Ludlow (a green and yellow 'umbrella' heading NW)... 21.43 Bromsgrove (two fan shaped objects with many lights heading NW)... 21.50 Cannock (two triangular objects with lights heading N)... 22.39 Penkridge (two bright lights heading S over Cannock Chase). The best scenario from all this is of military air traffic heading from a base well to the south west of Birmingham, north westwards to Cannock, circling round and heading back. One eye-witness (an air enthusiast) claimed the event WAS an air refuelling exercise involving two VC-10 from RAF Brize Norton in Oxfordshire and this fits perfectly. That witness agrees the night was incredibly clear and the lights were remarkable; "I can appreciate the mystery that ensued." RAF Brize Norton confirmed that this exercise (also including lots of smaller jets flying in retinue with the big tankers and heavily illuminated with many anti-collision lights) did indeed occur. It was very high up (hence the slow relative speed from the ground and silence.) Hence this must be the answer.

The question, just as Clive Potter says, is why the MoD were totally incapable of reaching this simple solution themselves (they had far better resources than UFOlogists had) and ended up fobbing off a genuinely concerned MP with a ludicrous excuse that merely exacerbated disbelief?

THE HEYWOOD LIGHTS:

Just time this issue to introduce a case which featured in many British newspapers in May. This summary is of media reports on the incident.

The sighting occurred from around 01.30 hrs on 19 May 1989 at Heywood, Lancashire. The *Manchester Evening News* that day carried a major story headed "Police chase a UFO" and reported how two ambulance crew at this town on the edge of the Pennines had seen three 'objects' flashing coloured lights (green, blue and red) for over an hour above their station. They tried to call for help but the 999 line "went dead". They also flashed a message with their ambulance headlight and the UFO "went haywire". Police officers reputedly saw the UFO and chased it in a patrol car. Manchester Airport are quoted as explaining it as a 'star' and Jenny Randles referred to spectacular auroral displays this summer as a possible cause.

This (not wholly accurate) material was garnered by the newspaper early on the Friday (as were the national stories). Nobody interviewed the eyewitnesses, who were asleep during that day. Not that this stopped most of the papers carrying (again very inaccurate) versions of the affair on 20 May. The *Sun* reported "999 men chased by a UFO". The *Daily Star* were even more explicit, noting; "An ambulance crew was buzzed by aliens..." Needless to say, the *Sunday Sport* (21 May) were at it too, with the completely ridiculous 'news' (spelt l-i-e?) that "a search has been launched for a human kidnapped by aliens following a mass UFO sighting in Lancashire."

They added; "Experts believe the UFO, which was seen by dozens of people in Heywood, was on a deliberate scouting mission." Where did such tripe come from? Well, it is interesting to find the local *Heywood Advertiser* (25 May and 1 June) devoting much space to the case and one Steve Balon's views on it (remember his 'Baloney' from Ilkley Moor?) He stuffed them full of documents about crashed spaceships and dead aliens and explained the Heywood events in the context of "evidence (of) an extraterrestrial race".

For those UFO societies around the world who may be penciling this in as a major close encounter through irresponsible twaddle from people like this, please await the next NUN or BRIGANTIA before making rash judgements.

You should know that the Heywood police PHONED Peter Hough at MUFORA within moments of the UFO disappearing to ask for advice on how to handle matters. Within six hours (before the media woke up to the case) Jenny Randles was hard at work in a team effort involving Manchester Airport and Jodrell Bank seeking answers. Andy Walmsley of IUN and his computer then joined in later on Friday and within 36 hours (after the media had reported it as a 'UFO' and lost all further interest, of course) we had a definitive account. Several MUFORA investigators interviewed the main eye-witnesses (at Heywood police request) on site and within hours of the events.

To get the full evidence you must read this MUFORA-IUN report. Don't trust any other version, as it is not based on first hand or immediate data and, if written from the various press stories, could be wildly incorrect.

FINAL
WORDS

The May Brigantia features the final definitive report on the Peter Beard (Barnsley) photos, including computer enhanced images. If you are only reading NUN and want monthly issues send just £3 to top up your NUN subscription and bring you the next three BRIGANTIAS as well as all NUNs.

Last word on the UFO Congress at the London Business School. Its the UFO event of the year with three whole days of lectures, films, debates and forums. At just £12 for each packed day or £30 for the whole three days (14 to 16 July) you shouldn't miss it. Worth a long weekend in London just to meet all those international UFOlogists. (Limited tickets available on the door - first come first served - The London Business School is near Baker Street tube station on the Outer Circle of Regent's Park.)

NUFON Regional Groups

SPI	(Scotland)	4 Woodlea Park, Branshill, Sauchie, Alloa	FK10 3BG
NLUFOIG	(Cumbria)	89 Bare Lane, Morecambe, Lancashire	LA 4 6RN
HWSL	(Nth Lancs)	63 Devonshire Dr, Clayton-le-Moors, Lancs	BB 5 5RH
BSUFOS	(Fylde Coast)	293 Devonshire Rd, Blackpool, Lancashire	FY 2 0TW
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